A

New-years Gift:

PRESENTED BY

THO. Lord FAIRFAX,

And the General-councel of Officers,

In ſeverall

PROPOSITIONS

For the generall ſatisfaction, and ſetling the Peace of the Kingdom;

BY

Equal diſtribution of Elections

An equal Repreſentative of the whole People electing

Making of Laws, Conſtitutions and Offices for the future Government of the Kingdom.

By the appointment of his Excellency, the Lord General, and his general Councel of Officers.

Signed,

JOHN RUSHWORTH.

With the Charge againſt His MAIESTY.

London, Printed for *R. Smithurſt*, 1648.

2.V 5/6

179 x 135 8/6

To the Sons of Freedom.

COUNTRY-MEN,

CUſtom (amongſt the obedient) is become of ſuch a force, that it enableth the Tyrant to reign, and the Cruel to oppreſs. Cuſtom (by reaſon of its antiquity) is become a Conqueror of all oppoſers. Cuſtom (for it excludeth not all good) is often the performer of many good offices among friends: and this Cuſtom (under the later notion) doth invite me at this time to preſent unto thee (courteous Country-man) this ſmall *New-yeers gift*, which thou mayſt intitle, *Propoſitions which would ſettle Peace*. And indeed, I think it very ſeaſonable to begin with the yeer, for that I preſume it will not in all things be accompliſhed by the end of it (ſo great is the retardment of carnal Councels.) For the contents, rendreth it to be even a Catalogue of the Princely Priviledges of a Free-born people, whoſe ſplendor hath hitherto been impriſoned in that ſad dungeon of darkneſs, *Royall Tyranny*; which if a ſingle Champion did at any time oppoſe, there hath ſtill been ſome *whited-wall-Magiſtrate* to cauſe him to be ſmitten on the mouth. Now therefore, if thou wilt but vouchſafe to look back upon paſt times, and conſider the indigentneſs of the Subjects liberty in thoſe days, and compare it with the Freedom due unto them (which thou haſt here preſented unto thee,) thou wilt ſay (if thou take not up a prejudicate opinion thereof) That he is aſſuredly thy friend that endeavoureth to procure it, as he deſireth to be which preſenteth it to thee.

To

NOw (after publick justice, and therewith the present quieting of the kingdom thus far provided for) we proceed in order, to the generall satisfaction, and setling of the Kingdom, as followeth:

I. That you would set some reasonable and certain period to your own power, by which time that great and supreme Trust reposed in you, shall be returned into the hands of the People, from, and for whom you received it, that so you may give them satisfaction and assurance that what you have contended for against the King (for which they have been put to so much trouble, cost, and loss of blood) hath been only for their Liberties and common interest, and not for your own personall Interest, or power.

II. That (with a period to this Parliament, to be assigned as short as may be, with safety to the Kingdom, and publick Interest thereof) there may be a sound settlement of the peace and future government of the Kingdom, upon grounds of Common Right,

Right, Freedom and ſafety, to the effect here following:

Firſt, that from the end of this, there may be a certain ſucceſſion of future Parliaments (Annuall, or Biennial) with ſecure proviſion.

1. For the certainty of their meeting, ſitting and ending.

2. For the equal diſtribution of Elections thereunto, to render the Houſe of Commons, as near as may be, an equal Repreſentative of the whole People electing.

3. For the certainty of the Peoples meeting (according to ſuch Diſtributions) to elect, and for their full freedom in elections, provided, That none who have engaged or ſhall engage in War, againſt the right of Parliament, and intereſt of the Kingdom therein, or have adhered to the enemies thereof, may be capable of electing, or being elected (at leaſt during a competent number of years) nor any other, who ſhall oppoſe, or not joyn in agreement to this ſettlement.

4. For future clearing, and aſcertaining the

the power of the ſaid Repreſentatives; in order to which, that it be declared, That (as to the whole intereſt of the People of Eugland) ſuch Repreſentatives have, and ſhall have the ſupreme power and truſt, as to the making of Laws, Conſtitutions, and Offices, for the ordering, preſervation, and Government of the whole; and as to the altering, and repealing, or aboliſhing of the ſame, the making of War, or Peace; and as to the higheſt and finall Judgement, in all civil things, without further appeal to any created ſtanding power; and that all the people of this Nation, and all Officers of Juſtice, and Miniſters of State (as ſuch) ſhall, in all ſuch things be accountable and ſubject thereunto, and bound and concluded thereby; provided, That,

1 They may not cenſure or queſtion any man after the end of this Parliament, for any thing ſaid or done in reference to the late Wars, or publick differences, ſaving in execution of ſuch determinations of this Parliament, as ſhall be left in force at the ending thereof, in relation to ſuch as have ſerved the King againſt the Parliament.

2 They

2 They may not render up, or give, or take away any the foundations of common Right, Liberty or Safety contained in this ſettlement and Agreement. But that the power of theſe two things, laſt mentioned, ſhall be always underſtood to be reſerved from, and not entruſted to the ſaid Repreſentatives.

5. For liberty of entring diſſents in the ſaid Repreſentatives, That, in caſe of corruption, or abuſe in theſe matters of higheſt truſt, the People may be in capacity to know who are free thereof, and who guilty, to the end only they may avoid the further truſting of ſuch, but without further penalty to any for their free judgments there.

Secondly, that no King be hereafter admitted, but upon the election of, and as upon truſt from the People, by ſuch their Repreſentatives, nor without firſt diſclaiming and diſavowing all pretence to a Negative voice, againſt the determinations of the ſaid Repreſentatives, or Commons in Parliament; and that to be done in ſome certain form, more clear then heretofore in the Coronation Oath. Theſe

These matters of general settlement (*viz.* That concerning a period to this Parliament, and the other particulars thence following hitherto) we propound to be declared and provided by this Parliament, or by the authority of the Commons therein, and to be further established by a general Contract, or Agreement of the People, with their subscriptions thereunto, as that (withall) it may be provided, That none may be capable of any benefit by the Agreement, who shall not consent and subscribe thereunto; nor any King be admitted to the Crown, or other person to any Office, or place of publick Trust, without expresse accord and subscription to the same.

THe Charge against the King is drawn up, and runs thus: That *Charles Stuart* hath acted contrary to his trust, in departing from the Parliament, setting up his Standard, making a War against them, and thereby been occasion of much bloud-shed and misery to the people, whom he was set over for good: That he gave Commissions, and was occasion of a second War, with besides what done contrary to the Liberties of the Subject, and tending to the destruction of the fundamental Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom; all which amounts to a forfeiture of the said trust. With much more to this effect.

FINIS.